

Brian White

From: Brian White [bwwhite@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2005 10:35 AM
To: Rusty Kapela; Brian White
Cc: w9rh@arrl.net
Subject: Re: Possible tour of the forecast office.

Rusty,

That works for me.

Thank you

I will get back to you in late February as commitments firm up.

Brian White

To Pancho, KA9OFA

Please include the time 10:30AM and primary date March 5th with the raindate March 12th in this months Chatter. Thank you.

K9LCQ

Rusty Kapela <Rusty.Kapela@noaa.gov> wrote:

Brian....ok...let's go with March 5th for primary date..and March 12th for the rain date. How about a 1030 am start time?

I'll expect 15 to 20. ...Rusty

Brian White wrote:

> Rusty,
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> I hope your holidays went well.
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> I contacted you late last year with a request for touring the weather
> office.
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> The MRAC board members feel that a Saturday morning tour is the best
> option. Many of our older members do not want to drive into Jefferson
> County at night. The single biggest conflict affecting the members is
> April 2nd. On April 2nd an event called Superfest occurs in
> Milwaukee at Amateur Electronic Supply. AES is the local supplier of
> amateur radio gear. This annual event is amateur radio related and
> draws many Hams from the area to AES for demos, forums and vendors
> plus much more.

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> Dates in February will be hard to schedule for a number of reason
> reasons. We felt that dates between Memorial Day and Labor Day would
> be too difficult to schedule.

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> We would like to schedule, depending of course upon your availability,
> two dates. A primary and a rain date.

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> You requested that we supply you with several dates the following are
> all Saturday dates.

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> March 5th

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> March 12th

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> March 19th

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> March 26th

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> April 9th

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> April 16th

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> April 23rd

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> April 30th

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> May 7th

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> May 14

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> May 21st

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> Once we here back from you the membership will be informed and a
> commit to attend signup will be generated. We then can inform you of
> the number attending. We will limit the number to 20 as you indicated.

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> Thank you again.

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> Acting Secretary MRAC

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> -----Original Message-----

> *From:* Rusty Kapela [mailto:Rusty.Kapela@noaa.gov]

> *Sent:* Sunday, December 19, 2004 09:10

> *To:* Brian White

> *Subject:* Re: Possible tour of the forecast office.

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> Brian....let's go for a tour of the office either on the last Thursday
> of Feb 2005 (about 7pm?...or 730pm?), or if your club wants to...on
> any Saturday....say about 10 am? Tour would last about an hour.
> Anything up to 20 people is fine....I would have to split the group
> into 2 parts....one watching a video tape while the other tours the
> place, and then a switch. Let me know which "last" Thursday you want
> the tour...or which Saturdays look good from your end...asap. I guess
> you will not be able to give me an answer until after your late Jan
> meeting.

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> I can not give your club a tour on any Thursday in March or
> April...since I must reserve them for possible spotter classes...but
> Saturday's are generally open...unless I have to work an operational
> forecast shift on a Saturday...which means I can't do the tour on that
> Saturday. *Give me several Saturday dates*....so I can see which one
> will work best for me..if it ends up that you want the tour on a
> Saturday..

>

> ...Rusty

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> Brian White wrote:
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> Rusty,
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> My name is Brian White. I am a trained weather spotter and one of the Hams
>
> that man the radio during severe weather events. I am also the secretary of
>
> one the local amateur radio clubs, the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club. The
>
> club has been in existence since 1917.
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> Many of the members of the MRAC know that I volunteer my time as weather
>
> spotter and as one of the Hams that take reports at the weather office. A few
>
> of these members have expressed an interest in visiting your facility and
>
> wanted to know if they could visit during severe weather or just show up at
>
> the door. I told them no, tours need to be arranged.
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> At our last meeting a show of hand indicated that about 15 people were
>
> interested. Of course for an actual tour that number could go up or down.
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> Our meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month except December. I
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> would very much like to report back to the membership during the January
>
> meeting with whatever information you provide.
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> I do know that tours have been held in the past, generally on weekends as I
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> have participated in a tour before becoming a Sullivan radio operator.
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>I have been charged with the responsibility of determining the possibility of
>
>arranging a weekend tour. I have talked to Tom Kucharski about a possible
>
>tour of the forecast office as he is the liaison between the amateur radio
>
>world and the weather office. Tom suggested that tours can be arranged but I
>
>would need to contact you. I understand that the Homeland Security will play
>
>a part as well as the availability of staff to conduct such a tour.
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>So I have a couple of questions if you don't mind.

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>Is it possible to arrange a tour?

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>From the FAQ's (<http://weather.gov/pa/faq.php#q10>) the answer appears to be

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>yes,

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>Q10. Can I visit my local NWS office?

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>A10. Visiting your local NWS Forecasting Office is something that is not only

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>allowed, but encouraged. Unfortunately, there are times when this might not be

>

>possible. As you know, NWS offices are very busy places, especially during

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>severe weather events. However, we understand that many people may want to

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>have access to the offices at those times. The Internet has made it possible

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>for our offices to distribute critical information to a wide audience quickly.

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>Even though no office can permit unlimited access to their facility,

>especially during severe weather events when the potential for disruptions to
>
>operations is high, some offices can arrange for people to visit their offices
>
>or to observe severe weather operations on a limited basis. It would be
>
>necessary for you to clear any visits you wish to make with the warning
>
>coordination meteorologist (WCM) or meteorologist in charge (MIC) of the
>
>specific office that interests you.
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>The NWS is usually able to accommodate an individual's request to see the
>
>office, but would like to set this up in advance as much as possible. We
>
>can often accommodate unannounced "walk-ins", but they are at the visitor's
>
>"own risk". The NWS does not schedule formal tours from March 15 through June
>
>15th because of severe weather demands.
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>If it is still possible what would you need from me, from the club?
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>Does Sullivan or your self have a minimum or maximum limit on the number of
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>individuals that can visit the forecast off at anyone time?
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>What type of time frame do you require?

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>Thank you for your time.

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>Brian White, K9LCQ

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Brian White

From: Brian White [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 29, 2005 11:21 AM
To: Pancho, KA9OFA
Cc: Tom, AB9EK; Brian, K9LCQ; Dick, W9JBE; Hal, KB9OZN; Howard, AB9EK; Jerry, WA9CGE; Patrick, W9QU
Subject: NWS forecast office tour Q&A (revised again)

Since our last meeting some questions have arisen concerning
The tour of NWS forecast office.

The National Weather Service Forecast Office Milwaukee/Sullivan (KMKX) is located in Sullivan Township in Jefferson County, Wisconsin. The office is approximately 3 miles southeast of the town of Sullivan, 30 miles west of Milwaukee and 45 miles east of Madison. The Sullivan office has routine forecast and short-fused severe weather WARNING responsibility for southeast and south-central Wisconsin.

There is an amateur radio station located at the NWS office. It is manned at the request of the NWS during severe weather for receiving weather reports.

Q1. When is the tour?

A1. The tour primary date is March 5th at 10:30am, backup date is March 12th at 10:30am.

Q2. When is the dead line for signing up?

A2. February 24th by the close of the meeting.

Q3. I don't know if I can attend yet, can I just show up at the office?

A3. NO, tours are by appointment only. We have NWS imposed limit of 20. The area to handle visitors is small restricting the number of people they can accommodate and still perform their duties. That is why we are requesting that members commit to the tour by signing up. If you sign up and are a no show YOU have just denied another member the opportunity to see the NWS forecast office. If you feel that you can not commit don't sign up.

Q4. Can non-members attend the tour?

A4. Spouse yes, children and friends no.

Q5. Where is the office?

A5. N3533 Hardscrabble Road Dousman, WI 53118

Q6. Will maps be available?

A6. Yes, at the February meeting for those who have signed up.

Q7. What is the talk-in frequency?

A7. We will not have an official talk-in frequency. However, I will monitor the SEWFARS (146.820Mhz - offset w/ctcss 127.3) repeater from 9:15am until 10:15am.

Q8. Is there a Website for the office?

A8. Yes, <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/mkx/>

Q9. How will I know if the tour is cancelled?

A9. Be aware of the current threat level.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/homeland/>

If the threat level is high (ORANGE) or severe (RED) the tour is cancelled. Monitor the 145.390MHz repeater for announcements if the tour is cancelled do to other reasons, weather for instance. Check into or at least listen to the

Friday night for any updates on March 4th or March 11th if needed.

Q10. How are the tours handled?

A10. Tours larger then 10 are broken onto 2 groups, one watches a video while the other tours the office.

Q11. What happens if we have more then 20 people sign up?

A11. If we have more then 20 sign up (first come first served) they will be placed on a waiting list. If there is sufficient number I will try to arrange another tour later in the year. If you have signed up and find that you can not attend, call 262 548-6138 (K9LCQ) ASAP so that we may contact anyone that maybe on the waiting list so that they may attend.

K9LCQ

WEATHER OFFICE TRIP SIGN-UP

- 1 - Pancho KA90FA
2 - TOM AB9ER
3 - PATRICK W9UQ ONLY ON 5TH
4 - K9IZV
5 - Gerry W9AR → + 5 to 10 SCOUT LEADERS
6 - BILL W9WCF
7 - DAVE WB9BWP
8 - ✓ JOE SHERMAN K9DFZ
9 - (wife MARY if spot available)
10 - KB9PRF DAVE
11 - KA9MWT Kate
12 - K9LCQ Brian
13 - Leslie (wife of WB9BWP)
14 -
15 -
16 -
17 -
18 -
19 -
20 -

signup list for nws.txt

- 1 - Pancho KA9OFA
- 2 - Tom AB9EK
- 3 - Patrick W9UQ
- 4 - Ann spouse of Patrick W9UQ
- 5 - Warren K9IZV
- 6 - Gerry W9AR (he has the scouts if we need fills)
- 7 - Bill W9WCF
- 8 - Dave WB9BWP and spouse
- 9 - Leslie spouse of Dave WB9BWP
- 10 - Dave KB9PRF
- 11 - Kate KA9MNT
- 12 - ~~8 spots left~~ Joe Stumberg
- 13 - ~~7 spots left~~ ^{s pos} C
- 14 - 6 spots left
- 15 - 5 spots left
- 16 - 4 spots left
- 17 - 3 spots left
- 18 - 2 spots left
- 19 - 1 spot left
- 20 - Brian K9LCQ